# ANNUAL REPORT

# HEALTH DISCIPLINES BOARD

*January 1, 1990 –*
*December 31, 1991*

Alberta
PROFESSIONS AND
OCCUPATIONS BUREAU

Alberta
PROFESSIONS AND
OCCUPATIONS BUREAU

5th Floor, Kensington Place, 10011 - 109 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 3S8 403/427-2655

June 15, 1992

Honourable Stephen C. West
Minister Responsible for
Professions and Occupations

Dear Dr. West:

It is both my honour and my privilege to present to you the Annual Report of the Health Disciplines Board for the period of January 1, 1990 to December 31, 1991.

Respectfully submitted,

Elvin Christenson
Chairman
Health Disciplines Board

Alberta
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June 15, 1992

Mr. Elvin Christenson
Chairman
Health Disciplines Board

Dear Mr. Christenson:

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Health Disciplines Board for the period of January 1, 1990 to December 31, 1991.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Charlton
Registrar
Health Disciplines

[redacted]

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The 1990-1991 Report of the Health Disciplines Board outlines the objectives of the *Health Disciplines Act* as well as the structure and responsibilities of the Health Disciplines Board as mandated by the Act. The Report also gives an account of the Board's activities during the two-year period from January 1, 1990 to December 31, 1991 and provides a brief status report on each of the health disciplines previously designated under the Act and those which sought designation over this same period.

## II. THE HEALTH DISCIPLINES ACT

### A. Proclamation

The *Health Occupations Act* was passed by the Legislative Assembly on November 27, 1980 and proclaimed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council on December 6, 1981. Amendments to the Act in 1984 introduced a change in title to the *Health Disciplines Act*.

### B. Objectives

The Act provides a mechanism for regulating a variety of health disciplines not regulated under other professional legislation. In particular, the Act reserves the use of specific titles and abbreviations of the health disciplines designated under the Act for the practitioners registered in those health disciplines. Such right to title legislation allows both consumers and employers a means of distinguishing regulated practitioners from non-regulated individuals who provide similar services. The Act also establishes registration and disciplinary procedures for these regulated practitioners. Such procedures set the parameters for standards to be met by practitioners and for their accountability to the public and their peers.

Specifically, the Act was developed to

- provide the public with safeguards where there is risk of harm from the practice of unregulated professions;
- provide a means of regulating health disciplines whose practice involves risk to patients or clients, requires special knowledge or technical proficiency and involves the exercise of some independent responsibility and judgement;
- ensure health disciplines whose provision of services may be contravening other professional statutes are legally entitled to practice;
- allow for the self-governance of regulated health disciplines, where practical, rather than placing them under the legislative supervision of other professions;
- allow for a degree of peer regulation for the disciplines regulated under the Act; and
- avoid proliferation of individual statutes with varying standards by providing a mechanism for regulating health disciplines.

### C. Minister Responsible for Professions and Occupations

The Minister Responsible for Professions and Occupations oversees the administration of the Act. During the 1990-1991 period, this position was held by the Honourable R. S. (Dick) Fowler, Solicitor General.

### D. The Council on Professions and Occupations

The Council on Professions and Occupations, chaired by Mrs. Dianne Mirosh, MLA, was established on June 5, 1989 and provides advice to the Minister on all matters relating to professional legislation, including the Act.

## III. THE HEALTH DISCIPLINES BOARD

The Health Occupations Board was established in January 1982 following proclamation of the *Health Occupations Act*. With the Act's change in title in 1984 to the *Health Disciplines Act*, the Board became known as the Health Disciplines Board.

### A. Structure and Mandate

The Board consists of at least four, but not more than seven, representatives from the general public and two representatives of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. A representative from each of the following government departments may attend Board meetings as an observer:

- Alberta Advanced Education,
- Alberta Family and Social Services, and
- Alberta Health.

The Board's role is to advise the Government on whether the degree of risk associated with the practice of health disciplines seeking designation under the Act warrants regulation and to oversee the regulation of those health disciplines designated under the Act in the interests of public protection.

### B. Membership

The following individuals served as members of the Board during the 1990-1991 period:

- Mr. Elvin Christenson, Chairman;
- Mr. Anthony Koch, Deputy Chairman;
- Dr. William Donald (from August 1990);
- Dr. E. Anne Fanning (from August 1990 to January 1991);
- Dr. Paul Flynne (from October 1991);
- Mr. Nicholas Kashuba;
- Mrs. Diane Latham;
- Mr. Albert Maiani;
- Mr. Shane Porter; and
- Dr. Richard Sherbaniuk (to August 1990).

### C. Responsibilities

The Board, in carrying out its mandate, is responsible for

- investigating applications for designation,
- developing and amending regulations,
- reviewing registration decisions,
- hearing disciplinary appeals,
- approving training programs and examinations for registration purposes, and
- overseeing the regulation of designated health disciplines by health discipline Committees and associations established under the Act.

#### 1. Investigations

When a health discipline applies for designation under the Act, or at the request of the Minister, the Board carries out an investigation to determine whether the potential for harm and the degree of risk to the public associated with the practice of the health discipline warrants regulation under the Act.

In conducting such investigations, the Board

a) obtains information concerning

- the tasks practitioners of the health discipline perform and the complexity of those tasks,
- the degree of direction or supervision received by practitioners of the health discipline, and
- the educational programs approved for that health discipline available both within and outside Alberta.

b) solicits this information, in the form of questionnaires and written briefs, from several areas, including the following, and invites those submitting briefs or completing questionnaires to make oral presentations to it:

- associations concerned with the health discipline,
- employers,
- government departments and agencies, and
- educational institutions.

c) evaluates this information with respect to

- the degree of direct and personal impact practitioners of the health discipline may have on the health of those they care for or treat;

- the qualifications desirable for these practitioners with respect to education, training, specific knowledge or technical proficiency;
- the minimum standard of competency required of these practitioners;
- the scope of health services these practitioners may provide and any limitations or conditions applicable to the provision of those services; and
- the level of independence of practice necessary for these practitioners.

d) submits to the Minister

- a full report on the investigation and
- a recommendation as to whether the health discipline should be designated under the Act.

If the Government decides designation of the health discipline under the Act is appropriate, legislation is enacted adding the health discipline to the Schedule of Designated Health Disciplines accompanying the Act.

**2. Regulation development**

The Board is responsible for the development of regulations for health disciplines accepted for designation under the Act and recommends them to the Lieutenant Governor in Council for approval. These regulations address such matters as:

- services a registered practitioner of a designated health discipline may provide and any conditions and limitations placed upon the provision of those services;
- standards of conduct and competency;
- qualifications and conditions of eligibility for practitioners applying for registration in the discipline;
- temporary and renewal of registration criteria;
- exclusive title(s) and abbreviation(s) a registered practitioner may use to indicate he/she is a member of the designated health discipline;
- requirements related to training and refresher programs and registration examinations; and
- requirements for public representation.

The health discipline itself provides advice to the Board on the preparation of a draft regulation which the Board ensures is circulated to all affected stakeholders for comment. The regulation is revised based on this circulation and, if satisfied, the Board recommends the regulation to the Lieutenant Governor in Council for approval.

If approved at this level, the Minister establishes a health discipline Committee or a health discipline association to govern each health discipline and implement the regulation. These governing bodies also provide advice to the Board on amendments to the regulation, as required. These amendments undergo the same consultation process as that used when a new regulation is developed and must also be approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

**3. Reviewing registration decisions**

The Board acts as a review body for registration decisions made by health discipline Committees and associations. Any practitioner who feels he/she has been wrongly denied registration or registration renewal may request that the Board review the registration decision. The Board may uphold the original decision or refer the matter back to the health discipline Committee or the Registration Committee of the health discipline association, as the case may be, for further review.

**4. Hearing disciplinary appeals**

Under the Act, any person may lodge a written complaint against a practitioner registered in a designated health discipline. The nature of the complaint may refer to a practitioner's conduct, skill or judgement used in the practice of the health discipline; fitness to practice the health discipline; or provision of services not authorized in the regulations of the health discipline. The complaint must be made to the registrar of the appropriate health discipline

who then arranges for a preliminary investigation of the complaint. If the complaint is found not to be trivial or vexatious, the governing Committee or the Conduct and Competency Committee of the governing association, as the case may be, holds a disciplinary hearing.

The Board acts as an appeal body for the disciplinary decisions made at these hearings. Any complainant or practitioner who wishes to appeal such a decision may request the Board to hear the matter, in accordance with the Act.

**5. Approving training programs and examinations for registration purposes**

The Board is responsible for approval of training programs, refresher programs and examinations for purposes of initial registration and registration renewal in a designated health discipline.

The governing Committee or association, or an Expert Advisory Committee established for that discipline provides advice to the Board concerning the qualifications and training desirable for registered members of the designated health discipline and on approval of specific programs and examinations. (See section D below for further information on Expert Advisory Committees.) On the basis of this advice, the Board determines whether a particular program or examination is appropriate for registration purposes.

**6. Overseeing the regulation of designated health disciplines by health discipline Committees and associations established under the Act**

As noted above, responsibility for the daily governance of health disciplines designated under the Act is delegated to government-administered health discipline Committees established under the Act or health discipline (professional) associations named for this purpose under the Act. In addition to their responsibilities in registering and disciplining the practitioners in their particular health disciplines, these bodies function in an advisory role to the Board. (See Section IV, Health Discipline Governing Bodies, for more information).

The Board monitors the activities of designated health disciplines through reports made by governing bodies and the Registrar of Health Disciplines.

**D. Expert Advisory Committees**

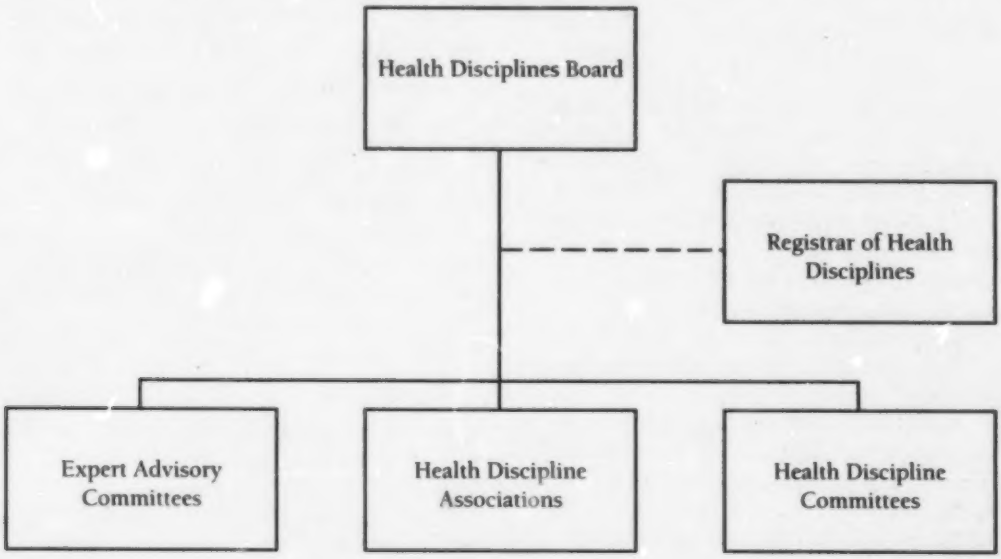
Expert Advisory Committees may be established under the Act to provide advice to the Board for specific purposes. For example:

- Regulation Development Advisory Committees assist the Board in developing regulations for health disciplines newly designated under the Act;
- Educational Standards Advisory Committees identify the skills and knowledge required of practitioners to competently perform the health services outlined in the regulations and evaluate training and refresher programs to determine whether they teach these skills and knowledge so that graduates can perform competently in the workplace; and
- Examination Development Advisory Committees develop examinations for the purposes of registration in a designated health discipline.

**E. Research and Administrative Support**

The Registrar of Health Disciplines and other professional staff of the Professions and Occupations Bureau provide research and administrative support to the Board and the various committees established under the Act. Bureau staff also provide policy interpretation

**FIGURE 1 — HEALTH DISCIPLINES BOARD ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE**




- Acupuncture Examination Advisory Committee
- Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technicians Examination Advisory Committee
- Emergency Medical Technicians Examination Advisory Committee
- Licensed Practical Nurses (Registered Nursing Assistants) Educational Standards Advisory Committee

- Alberta Association of Medical Radiation Technologists
- Alberta Hearing Aid Practitioners Association
- Alberta Prehospital Professions Association
- Alberta Society of Respiratory Therapists
- Professional Council of Licensed Practical Nurses (Registered Nursing Assistants)
- Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Alberta

- Acupuncture Committee
- Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technicians Committee
- Electroneuro-physiological Technologists Committee*
- Mental Deficiency Nurses Committee

* being developed

to those bodies delegated governing responsibility.

**F. 1990-1991 Activities**

**1. Investigations**

In response to the Government's direction to place Midwifery at the top of its agenda, the Board focused a considerable amount of its time and resources during the 1990-1991 period investigating this controversial health discipline. After careful consideration of all information provided through written briefs and oral presentations, the Board recommended to Government that Midwifery be designated under the Act. The Board further recommended that a Midwifery Implementation Advisory Committee be established to address issues falling outside its own mandate such as the method of implementation of its recommendations. The Minister established the Midwifery Services Review Committee in September 1991 to continue investigating these other issues.

The Board also completed its investigations into the following three health disciplines during the 1990-1991 period:

- Medical Laboratory Technologists,
- Naturopaths, and
- Recreation Therapists.

Of these three health disciplines, the Government has approved Medical Laboratory Technologists for designation under the Act.

The Board also continued its investigations into the designation of Dietary Technologists and Orthotists and Prosthetists. Once these investigations are completed, the Board will make its recommendations regarding designation to Government.

The Board placed two of its investigations on hold in 1990-1991 pending action on other legislation: the Cytotechnology investigation was placed on hold pending possible inclusion under the Medical Laboratory Technologists Regulation and the investigation into Podiatry was placed on hold pending possible inclusion under the Medical Profession Act.

Clinical Perfusionists were the only group to submit an application for designation during this period. The Board will begin investigating this health discipline in early 1992.

**2. Regulation development**

The Board developed new regulations for Medical Laboratory Technologists and reviewed amendments to the regulations for Emergency Medical Technicians, Licensed Practical Nurses (Registered Nursing Assistants) and Respiratory Therapists. These amendments included changes to the scopes of practice for these health disciplines as well as matters pertaining to registration.

**3. Registration**

The Board reviewed three registration decisions. In two of these cases, the Board referred the matters back to the Registration Committee of the affected health discipline for further consideration. The Board upheld the Registration Committee decision in the third case.

**4. Complaints**

No conduct and competency appeals were heard by the Board.

**5. Training programs and examinations**

The Board reviewed, for temporary or standing approval, 15 training programs, three refresher programs and five examinations for registration purposes in health disciplines designated under the Act. The Board also focused much of its attention in this area on the development of a registration examination for the designated health discipline of Acupuncture.

**6. Overseeing designated health disciplines**

As of December 31, 1991, the Board was responsible for overseeing the following health disciplines regulated under the *Health Disciplines Act*:

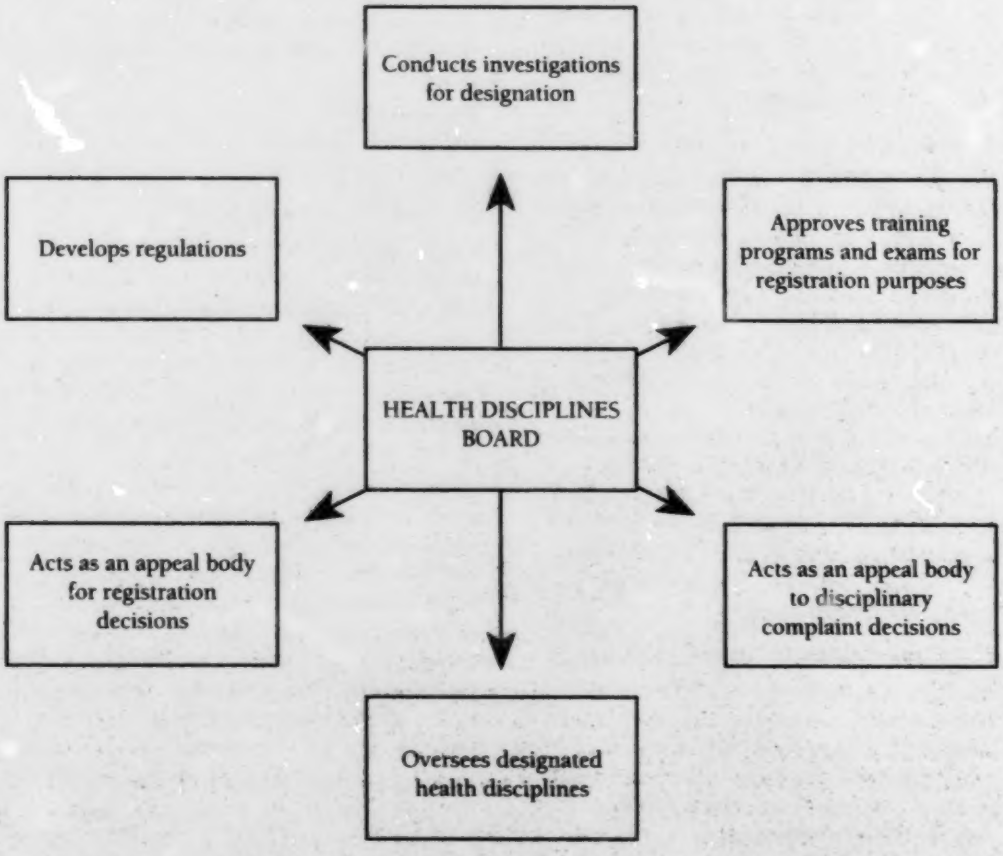
- Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technicians,
- Emergency Medical Technicians-Ambulance and Paramedic,

- Hearing Aid Practitioners,
- Licensed Practical Nurses (Registered Nursing Assistants),
- Medical Radiation Technologists,
- Mental Deficiency Nurses,
- Registered Psychiatric Nurses, and
- Respiratory Therapists.

**7. Other Activities**

The Board worked with other players in the health care system in a consultative and advisory manner. The Board reviewed the Government's *Principles and Policies Governing Professional Legislation in Alberta*, a document which outlines the Government's future direction in this area of public policy. The Board was also invited to comment on the *Rainbow Report: Our Vision for Health*, developed by the Premier's Commission on Future Health Care for Albertans, and offered its assistance to the Provincial Nursing Action Plan. In addition, several Board members were selected to comprise the Task Force on Eye Care Issues to advise the Government on

**FIGURE 2 — RESPONSIBILITIES OF HEALTH DISCIPLINES BOARD**


Conducts investigations for designation
Develops regulations
Approves training programs and exams for registration purposes
HEALTH DISCIPLINES BOARD
Acts as an appeal body for registration decisions
Acts as an appeal body to disciplinary complaint decisions
Oversees designated health disciplines

controversial issues involving the three eye care professions in the Province.

## IV. HEALTH DISCIPLINE GOVERNING BODIES

Responsibility for daily governance of a health discipline designated under the Act is delegated to a government-administered health discipline Committee or a professional health discipline association.

### A. Health Discipline Committees

Health discipline Committees are made up of three to nine members appointed by the Minister Responsible for Professions and Occupations, the majority of whom are practitioners of the health discipline being governed. The remaining members are individuals knowledgeable with respect to the practice of the health discipline. The Registrar of Health Disciplines acts as registrar to a health discipline Committee.

### B. Health Discipline Associations

The Minister may delegate daily governance of a designated health discipline to a professional association, if appropriate. Delegation of governance to such a body is based on factors such as the number of members in the association, the length of time the association has existed and the association's financial position. An association named as a designated health discipline association must appoint a registrar who is then given powers and duties similar to those of the Registrar of Health Disciplines, specific to that health discipline. The association must also establish a Registration Committee and a Conduct and Competency Committee, the responsibilities of which are outlined below.

### C. Responsibilities of Governing Bodies

In addition to their roles as advisors to the Board in the areas of regulation development and approval of training programs and examinations for registration purposes, both forms of governing bodies carry out the responsibilities outlined below.

#### 1. Registration

Registration of practitioners of a health discipline designated under the Act begins after the regulation for that health discipline comes into force. Registration must be renewed annually. Criteria for registration and renewal of registration are outlined in the regulation of each designated health discipline.

The application of any applicant or registered member who does not meet the standard registration or registration renewal requirements is referred to the Registration Committee of the health discipline association or the health discipline Committee, as the case may be, for review.

The Committee then informs the applicant or registered member of what he/she must do to address any deficiencies. If a registered member does not complete the order within the time frame specified, his/her registration may be cancelled.

The applicant or registered member has the right to request the Board to review a registration decision.

#### 2. Conduct and Competency

Upon receipt of a written complaint, the Registrar of Health Disciplines or the registrar of a health discipline association, as the case may be, conducts, or directs a registered member of the health discipline to conduct, a preliminary investigation. If the complaint is determined to be trivial or vexatious, no further action is taken.

If it is determined that the complaint is not trivial or vexatious, the matter is referred to the health discipline Committee or the Conduct and Competency Committee of a health discipline association, as the case may be, for a disciplinary hearing. If the complaint is upheld, the registered practitioner may be reprimanded, fined, suspended, struck from the register or required to take specified training.

Both the complainant and the practitioner have the right to appeal the disciplinary decision to

the Board. The Board may confirm, reverse or vary the Committee's decision. The Board's decision may, in turn, be appealed to the Court of Queen's Bench.

### 3. Annual Status Reports

Designated health discipline associations are required to annually submit a status report to the Registrar of Health Disciplines on the date specified in the health discipline's regulation. This annual report reflects the general status of the health discipline and highlights any major developmental initiatives or significant problems and addresses operational activities.

Health discipline Committees, as government bodies, are not required to submit an annual report.

## V. STATUS OF HEALTH DISCIPLINES

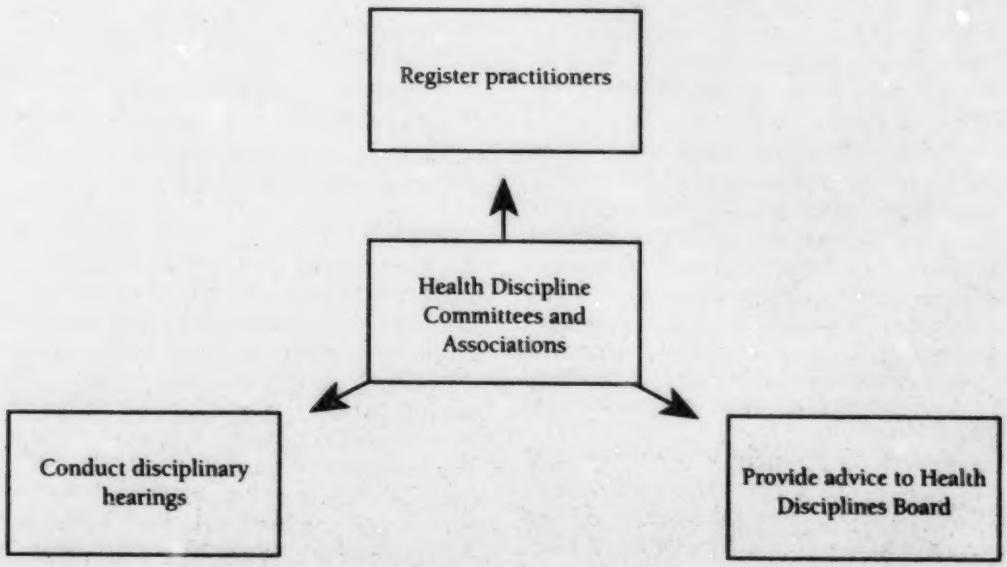
Since 1982, the Health Disciplines Board has received 36 applications for designation under the *Health Disciplines Act*. As shown in Figure 4 (see page 16), the outstanding applications for designation are at various stages of completion. Ongoing administration is required for the eight health disciplines regulated under the Act as of December 31, 1991.

### A. Status of Health Disciplines Currently Regulated

#### 1. COMBINED LABORATORY AND X-RAY TECHNICIANS

Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technicians are trained to provide laboratory and X-ray work in smaller hospitals which do not have

**FIGURE 3 — RESPONSIBILITIES OF HEALTH DISCIPLINE ASSOCIATIONS AND COMMITTEES**


Register practitioners
Health Discipline Committees and Associations
Conduct disciplinary hearings
Provide advice to Health Disciplines Board

sufficient volume or range of work to warrant employing both a laboratory technologist and an X-ray technologist. Registered practitioners may use the title, Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technician, and the initials, CLXT.

**Regulation**

In November 1984, the discipline of Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technicians was designated under the Act. A Regulation Development Advisory Committee was established in August 1985 and a draft regulation was presented to the Board in June 1986. The CLXT Regulation came into force in January 1989. This discipline is governed by the Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technicians Committee.

**Training Programs and Examinations**

The Board twice approved the CLXT training program offered at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) for an interim period of one year in the 1990-1991 period.

As required in the CLXT Regulation, applicants applying for registration as a CLXT after June 30, 1989 must complete the Provincial Registration Examination administered by the Alberta Association of Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technicians. The Board has given this Provincial Registration Examination interim approval twice in this period. The first sitting of this examination was held in January 1990.

Practitioners who are not current in the practice of Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technology or who need to upgrade their theoretical or technical skills may be required to complete a refresher program in accordance with the CLXT Regulation. The Board also gave the NAIT (CLXT) refresher program one year interim approval twice in the 1990-1991 period. .

**Registration**

**As of December 31, 1990 ..... Total**

Registered members (including 4 temporary) ..... 361

Registration decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board ..... 0

Complaints processed ..... 0

Conduct and competency decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board ..... 0

**As of December 31, 1991**

Registered members (including 3 temporary) ..... 355

Registration decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board ..... 0

Complaints processed ..... 0

Conduct and competency decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board ..... 0

## 2. EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) are prehospital care workers trained to provide life support services. The Emergency Medical Technician-Ambulance provides basic life support services, while the Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic provides advanced life support services. Both types of services must be delivered under the medical control of a physician.

Registered practitioners may use the following titles and initials:

- Emergency Medical Technician-Ambulance (EMT) or (EMT-A), or
- Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (EMT-P).

**Regulation**

The designation of the discipline of EMT-P received Royal Assent in June 1983 and a health discipline Committee was established to govern the discipline in January 1984. Following this, the Board conducted an investigation into the discipline of EMT-A and recommended designation. As a result, the original order establishing the EMT-P Committee was amended and in December 1984, the existing health discipline Committee was expanded to include EMT-A practitioners.

The Regulation for EMTs came into force on December 31, 1985. On January 1, 1989, the Alberta Prehospital Professions Association assumed responsibility for governance of the EMT discipline, as recommended by the Board.

**Training Programs and Examinations**

As of December 31, 1991, the Board had approved 11 training programs for EMT-As. Two of these programs are offered in Alberta [Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) and Alberta Vocational College — Lac La Biche], while the remainder are offered in other provinces or in the United States.

Three programs have been approved for EMT-Ps: two in Alberta (SAIT and NAIT) and one in British Columbia. Programs approved at the EMT-P level are also approved for registration at the EMT-A level.

As required in the EMT Regulation, applicants for either discipline must complete a registration examination approved by the Board. These registration examinations are currently developed by the provincial Emergency Medical Technicians Examination Committee, comprised of both EMT-A and EMT-P practitioners and representatives of the Alberta training institutions, in consultation with the Division of Studies in Medical Education at the University of Alberta, Faculty of Medicine.

**Registration**

| As of December 31, 1990 | Total |
|---|---|
| Registered members | 1 426 |
| Emergency Medical Technicians – Ambulance | 971 |
| Emergency Medical Technicians – Paramedic | 442 |
| Alumnus | 13 |
| Registration decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board | 0 |
| Complaints processed | 3 |
| Conduct and competency decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board | 0 |

| As of December 31, 1991 | |
|---|---|
| Registered members | 1 627 |
| Emergency Medical Technicians – Ambulance | 1 140 |
| Emergency Medical Technicians – Paramedic | 463 |
| Alumnus | 14 |
| Non-active | 9 |
| Associate | 1 |
| Registration decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board | 0 |
| Complaints processed | 7 |
| Conduct and competency decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board | 0 |

## 3. HEARING AID PRACTITIONERS

Practitioners in this health discipline test clients' hearing capacity and select, fit, dispense and repair hearing aids. The services of these practitioners are used in industry to determine the need for hearing protection and to provide and fit protective earmolds where required. Hearing Aid Practitioners work independently in private clinics and offices. Registered practitioners may use the title, Hearing Aid Practitioner.

**Regulation**

The designation of Hearing Aid Practitioners received Royal Assent in November 1984. To avoid confusion, the Board required the Alberta Hearing Aid Audiologist Association to change its name to the Alberta Hearing Aid Practitioners Association. Upon the Board's recommendation, the Alberta Hearing Aid Practitioners Association assumed statutory governing responsibility for this discipline. The regulation for this health discipline came into effect on March 1, 1988.

**Training Programs and Examinations**

There are no existing training programs for Hearing Aid Practitioners in Alberta approved by the Department of Advanced Education.

The Board has, however, approved the following programs offered through the American National Hearing Aid Society and Alberta College to fulfil the approved training requirements under the Act:

- National Hearing Aid Society Correspondence Course,
- Alberta College Audiology I,
- Alberta College Audiology II Hearing Measurement,
- at least two of Alberta College Audiology II
  - Hearing Aid Technology
  - Anatomy
  - Acoustics
  - Hearing Disorders and Management, and
- Studentship (Alberta College).

**Registration**

| As of April 30, 1990 | Total |
|---|---|
| Registered members | 69 |
| Registration decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board | 0 |
| Complaints processed | 0 |
| Conduct and competency decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board | 0 |
| **As of April 30, 1991** | |
| Registered members | 69 |
| Registration decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board | 0 |
| Complaints processed | 5 |
| Conduct and competency decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board | 0 |

## 4. LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES (REGISTERED NURSING ASSISTANTS)

Licensed Practical Nurses (Registered Nursing Assistants) provide practical nursing care under the direction of a nurse or physician to patients in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, institutions and other settings.

Registered practitioners may use the following titles and initials:

- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN),
- Registered Nursing Assistant (RNA), or
- Registered Nursing Orderly (RNO).

**Regulation**

The designation of the discipline of Registered Nursing Assistant received Royal Assent in November 1983. A health discipline Committee was established in September 1984 and was responsible for the development of the Registered Nursing Assistants Regulation. When the Regulation came into force on January 1, 1987, the Professional Council of Registered Nursing Assistants assumed responsibility for governing the discipline. In January 1991, a title change for the discipline to Licensed Practical Nurse was approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

**Training Programs and Examinations**

At present, there are three approved nursing assistant certificate programs offered in the Province (Alberta Vocational Colleges — Lac La Biche, Edmonton and Calgary). All applicants for registration must write the approved registration examination, the Canadian Nurses Association Testing Service Examination for Nursing Assistants.

**Educational Standards Advisory Committee**

The Licensed Practical Nurse Educational Standards Advisory Committee was established in March 1990 to provide advice to the Board on the standards of competency required for LPNs to perform the scope of practice outlined in the LPN Regulation and on approval of basic, refresher and advanced training programs for registration in the LPN discipline.

**Registration**

| As of December 31, 1990 | Total |
|---|---|
| Registered members | 6 736 |
| Registration decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board | 0 |
| Complaints processed | 4 |

decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board ..... 0

**As of December 31, 1991**

Registered members ..... 6 651

Registration decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board ..... 2

Complaints processed ..... 3

Conduct and competency decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board ..... 0

## 5. MEDICAL RADIATION TECHNOLOGISTS

Medical Radiation Technologists, under the direction of a physician, use a variety of X-ray equipment and radioactive materials to provide diagnostic and therapeutic services to patients.

The health discipline of Medical Radiation Technologist is broken up into three areas whose registered practitioners may use the following titles and initials:

- Nuclear Medicine Technologist (RTNM),
- Radiation Therapy (Oncology) Technologist (RTT), or
- Radiographic Technologist (RTR).

### Training Programs and Examinations

Training programs in Medical Radiation Technology are offered at NAIT and SAIT. All applicants for registration must pass the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists Certification Examination.

### Registration

**As of December 31, 1990 ..... Total**

Registered members ..... 1 319

Nuclear Medicine Technologists ..... 105

Radiation Therapy (Oncology) Technologists ..... 76

Radiographic Technologists ..... 1 138

Registration decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board ..... 0

Complaints processed ..... 0

Conduct and competency decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board ..... 0

**As of December 31, 1991**

Registered members ..... 1 362

Nuclear Medicine Technologists ..... 118

Radiation Therapy (Oncology) Technologists ..... 69

Radiographic Technologists ..... 1 104

Registration decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board ..... 0

Complaints processed ..... 1

Conduct and competency decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board ..... 0

## 6. MENTAL DEFICIENCY NURSES

Mental Deficiency Nurses are persons trained to provide nursing services to individuals with mental handicaps. Registered practitioners may use the title, Registered Mental Deficiency Nurse, and the initials, RMDN or MDN.

### Regulation

In January 1985, the Alberta Mental Deficiency Nurses Association applied to the Board for the designation of Mental Deficiency Nurses under the *Health Disciplines Act*. After completing its investigation in 1987, the Board recommended designation. The Regulation for MDNs came into force on September 1, 1989 and the MDN Committee was appointed as the governing committee in December 1989.

### Training Programs and Examinations

There are no training programs or examinations for registered MDNs in Alberta.

### Registration

The register for MDNs is closed.

**As of December 31, 1990 ..... Total**

Registered members ..... 78

Registration decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board ..... 0

Complaints processed ..... 0

Conduct and competency decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board .....0

**As of December 31, 1991**

Registered members .....78

Registration decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board .....0

Complaints processed .....0

Conduct and competency decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board .....0

## 7. PSYCHIATRIC NURSES

Psychiatric Nurses are practitioners who provide nursing care to emotionally and mentally ill patients. Registered practitioners may use the following titles and initials:

- Registered Psychiatric Nurse (RPN) or
- Psychiatric Nurse (PN).

### Regulation

The designation of the discipline of Psychiatric Nurse received Royal Assent in September 1986. The Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Alberta has been appointed the governing body for the health discipline. The Regulation came into force on January 1, 1988. At that time, the statute previously regulating psychiatric nurses, the *Psychiatric Nurses Training Act*, was repealed.

### Training Programs and Examinations

Applicants for registration in the Psychiatric Nurse discipline must complete a Board approved program and the registration examination that is offered by the Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Alberta. The Board originally approved the programs for RPNs offered at Alberta Hospital Ponoka and Alberta Hospital Edmonton. In 1991, the approved program at Alberta Hospital Edmonton was closed.

### Registration

**As of April 30, 1990 .....Total**

Registered members (active) .....1 347

(inactive) .....87

Registration decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board .....0

Complaints processed .....2

Conduct and competency decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board .....0

**As of April 30, 1991 .....Total**

Registered members (active) .....1 309

(inactive) .....70

Registration decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board .....0

Complaints processed .....0

Conduct and competency decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board .....0

## 8. RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS

Respiratory Therapists, under the direction of a physician, plan and implement therapeutic and diagnostic procedures for patients with heart and lung disorders. Services include cardiopulmonary resuscitation, mechanical ventilatory support and therapeutic gas administration. Examples of diagnostic services include cardiopulmonary testing and monitoring, and arterial blood gas services.

Registered practitioners may call themselves Registered Respiratory Therapists or Registered Respiratory Technologists and may use the initials, RRT.

### Regulation

The designation of the discipline of Respiratory Therapy received Royal Assent in June 1983 and the Respiratory Therapist Committee was established in December 1983 to govern the discipline. The Regulation came into force on March 31, 1986. Regulatory responsibility for the discipline was transferred to the Alberta Society of Respiratory Therapists in April 1989.

**Training Programs and Examinations**

The Board has approved the two programs offered in Alberta as well as all other Canadian respiratory therapy programs that have been accredited by the Canadian Medical Association and the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists (CSRT).

In addition to completing an approved program, applicants must pass the certification examination offered by the CSRT which has been approved by the Board or the American National Board of Respiratory Care Examination which was recognized on an interim basis by the Board on March 30, 1989 as equivalent to the CSRT examination.

**Registration**

| | |
|---|---|
| **As of December 31, 1990** | **Total** |
| Registered members | 641 |
| Registration decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board | 1 |
| Complaints processed | 2 |
| Conduct and competency decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board | 0 |
| **As of December 31, 1991** | **Total** |
| Registered members | 648 |
| Registration decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board | 0 |
| Complaints processed | 2 |
| Conduct and competency decisions appealed to the Health Disciplines Board | 0 |

**B. Health Disciplines Not Yet Regulated**

**Acupuncturists**

Acupuncture involves piercing the skin with a needle, without injecting any substance, to cure or alleviate a disease or disability. Acupuncture may also include manual, electrical or heat stimulation through these needles.

A person who is registered as a member of the designated health discipline of Acupuncture may use the title, Acupuncturist.

**Regulation**

Acupuncturists were designated under the Act in 1983 and the Acupuncture Regulation was proclaimed on October 31, 1991.

**Training Programs and Examinations**

There are currently no training programs in Acupuncture in Alberta. There are, however, programs offered in Ontario, Quebec, the United States and other countries.

**Registration**

During 1990-1991, the Acupuncture Examination Development Committee continued to work on developing a registration examination for this health discipline. Once the examination is approved by the Board, the first registration examination sitting will be held, at which time practitioners may be eligible to register in the health discipline.

**FIGURE 4 — STATUS OF HEALTH DISCIPLINES**

| Investigations in Progress | Investigations Completed, Regulations Being Developed | Designated, Ongoing Regulation | Investigations Completed, Not Designated | Investigations Completed, Status Not Yet Determined |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Clinical Perfusionists | Electroneuro-physiological Technicians | Acupuncturists | Athletic Therapists | Midwives |
| Cytotechnologists* | Medical Laboratory Technologists | Combined Laboratory and X-Ray Technicians | Chiropractors | |
| Dietary Technologists | Rehabilitation Practitioners** | Emergency Medical Technicians | Dental Technicians | |
| Orthotists and Prosthetists | | Hearing Aid Practitioners | Domiciliary Midwives | |
| Podiatrists* | | Licensed Practical Nurses (Registered Nursing Assistants) | Electrologists | |
| | | Medical Radiation Technologists | Health Record Administrators | |
| | | Mental Deficiency Nurses | Herbalists | |
| | | Psychiatric Nurses | Homeopathic Practitioners | |
| | | Respiratory Therapists | Massage Therapists | |
| | | | Naturopathic Practitioners | |
| | | | Orthomolecular Consultants | |
| | | | Orthopedic Technologists | |
| | | | Recreational Therapists | |
| | | | Remedial Gymnasts | |

* Investigation on hold, pending possible regulation under other legislation.

** Reconsideration of designation.